

Comparison of the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) Inputs on Reform of the United Nations Security Council

About:

The Permanent Representatives of Austria and Kuwait to the United Nations in New York have been the Co-Chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other related matters to the Security Council (IGN) during the 78th session of the General Assembly.

Rev.5 of the IGN contribution was circulated on 12th August 2024 and is the final revised version of the IGN contribution to the Pact for the Future that is intended to be submitted to the Co-Facilitators of the Summit of the Future (Germany and Namibia). This language contains some minor changes and updates in comparison to the language of Rev.4 circulated on 3 July 2024, which are mostly of a technical and editorial nature and aim to bring the text in line with the language of the Rev.2 of the Pact for the Future that completed its negotiation on August 9th, 2024.

Rev.5 of the IGN contribution was developed after extensive consultations held with delegations. The Co-Chairs have voiced their confidence that the text now enjoys the “widest possible political acceptance among delegations”. The justification for this being the final revised version is because the Co-Chairs believe that this text provides the best compromise achievable, striking a fair balance between the various positions expressed in the framework of the IGN while maintaining a high level of ambition, as well as concrete and forward-looking commitments on substance, process and interim measures while leaving the options open with regard to key issues, where there is no consensus at this stage.

The language of this Rev.5 text will form the basis of the continuation of the IGN’s work at its next session, combined with an additional mandate from world leaders and heads of state and government who will adopt this language in the Pact for the Future.

Methodology:

This Bulletin endeavours to provide an overview and comparison of how the initial draft of the IGN input (1 May, 2024) has evolved over time to form the latest version (as of 12 August, 2024). The key terminology, language, and paragraphs that were removed, modified, maintained, or added will be identified.

The structure of Rev.1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 are similar with 3 Actions items followed by operative paragraphs. The Zero Draft has a different structure. To provide a comprehensive analysis of the IGN inputs, the latest Rev.5 will be compared with its previous Rev.4 and Rev.3 iterations. All direct quotes and language from the texts have been italicised. Other comments have been made by the lead author of this bulletin.

Resources:

- Intergovernmental Negotiations (Security Council Reform) [Draft Input](#)
- Intergovernmental Negotiations (Security Council Reform) [Rev.1](#)

DISCLAIMER: This bulletin aims to provide recent updates and is not a complete summary or official record of the SOTF proceedings. It has been prepared independently and does not necessarily represent the viewpoints of any collaborating organizations. For further details, please reach out to Fergus Watt at ferguswatt6@gmail.com. The content is freely distributed as it is not copyrighted.

- Intergovernmental Negotiations (Security Council Reform) [Rev.2](#)
- Intergovernmental Negotiations (Security Council Reform) [Rev.3](#)
- Intergovernmental Negotiations (Security Council Reform) [Rev.4](#)
- Intergovernmental Negotiations (Security Council Reform) [Rev.5](#)
- All relevant information, documents, and statements on the [intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform](#) (IGN).
- [Zero Draft](#) of the Pact for the Future
- [Rev.1](#) of the Pact for the Future

Highlights:

- Delegations raised the point that the language contained in the IGN input to the Pact for the Future should be more concise and adapted to the purposes of a high-level document. Some delegations mentioned that the language should be “leader-like”. Others stressed the need for clear, operative and ambitious results.
- Only minor changes have been made in the latest version of the IGN input for readability and minor technical reasons.
- Rev.5 (the latest iteration) of the IGN input is split into three core action items:
 1. Action 1: We will reform the UN Security Council, recognizing the urgent need to make it more representative, inclusive, transparent, efficient, effective, democratic and accountable.
 2. Action 2: We will strengthen our efforts in the framework of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council Reform as a matter of priority and without delay.
 3. Action 3: We will strengthen the response of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security and its relationship with the General Assembly.

General references / language that were found in the Draft Input, Rev.1, Rev.2, Rev.3, and Rev.4 that have been removed in Rev.5 of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other related matters to the Security Council (IGN). Note that this is not an exhaustive list:

- Recalling our appeal for Security Council Reform of 2005
- Webcasting of parts of the IGN sessions
- Introducing a repository of the IGN with a dedicated website
- Overall range of 21-27 seats
- Note 507
- Increasing the frequency and improving the conduct of Security Council missions
- Fully making use of the different meeting formats available
- Committing to not vote against a credible draft resolution before the Security Council
- Permanent Members committing to not prevent the Security Council from taking action
- Situations involving the commission of mass atrocities by the use of the veto

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- Request the President of the General Assembly to appoint Co-Chairs for the Intergovernmental Negotiations in order to immediately continue negotiations
- Call on Member States to provide the President of the General Assembly with the necessary resources to support the process of Security Council reform and in this regard consider the establishment of a dedicated unit in the Office of the President of the General Assembly for the Security Council reform process
- Request the Secretary General to ensure the provision of the necessary expertise, especially through the Office of Legal Affairs, the Security Council Affairs Division and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM) as appropriate and as requested by the Co-Chairs and OPGA.
- Adopt a resolution clarifying the interpretation of the term “party to a dispute” in Art. 27 (3) of the UN Charter in order to ensure the full implementation of this provision
- Examine the establishment of a mechanism that ensures automatic consequences in the case of grave violations of the UN Charter.